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A BRIEF NOTICE  
OF THE  
AZTEC RACE,

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FOLLOWED BY A DESCRIPTION OF THE SO-CALLED  
AZTEC CHILDREN EXHIBITED ON THE OCCASION,

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FROM THE "TRANSACTIONS OF THE ETHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY."





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I HAVE frequently been asked, since the first announcement of the expected arrival of the Aztecs in London, "Who are the Aztecs?" Before introducing the children, it is perhaps well briefly to state some particulars relating to the Aztecs, and their predecessors in that part of Central America, viz. the Toltecs.

The comparatively narrow strip of land which connects North with South America is called Central America—central, because it lies between North and South America. In ordinary maps of North America it almost escapes notice, from its being, as it were, a mere link to unite the two Americas; and for the same reason it is but of little value in maps of South America.

Yet this comparatively small tract of country, as Humboldt long ago pointed out, presents to our view the most striking and singular phenomena, in all the forms both of living and inanimate nature that are found on the earth. Humboldt's description of this region, in his "Essay on New Spain," his continual recurrence to it in "Cosmos," and his fond lingering upon its physical characters in "Aspects of Nature," give all that is possible for description to yield to us of its aspect.

This region, however, presents, in its human inhabitants, something more wonderful still. While all around was still

in barbarism, here was a centre of civilization, which, when it was discovered by the Spaniards, more than three centuries ago, presented certain phases of civilization, something similar to those of Europe, and certain other phases quite dissimilar, and peculiar to Mexico.

The "History of the Conquest of Mexico," by Hernando Cortes, is one with whose outlines we have been familiar from our early boyhood: its marvellous deeds of daring were calculated to fire the ardour of the boy, while the heroic sufferings of Montezuma laid equal claim to his sympathies.

In Central America we find ruins of Cyclopean masonry, which suggest to us that of the Pelasgi: we find, also, temples with bas-reliefs and hieroglyphics, which bring Egypt to the mind. These suggestions, however, are not the result of a similarity in the form and character of the architecture, for nothing can be more dissimilar, but is rather obtained from the massiveness of the one and the carvings of the other.

When Mexico was conquered by the Spaniards, Montezuma was the emperor. They called themselves Aztecs. Foreigners, we know, often designate peoples and nations by other than their own names, of which a capital example occurs in Europe. The people whom we call *Germans* designate themselves *Deutsche*, the French term them *les Allemandes*, the Italians *i Tedeschi*, and they have received different names from other nations; and Montezuma, in his own language, was emperor of the Aztecs or Aztecas.

This empire consisted of three confederated states—Mexico, Tezcucó, Tlacopan—and of several dependent states, each of which had been conquered by the federal army; and although each was governed by its own cacique, it received its laws from, and owed homage to, Montezuma as its suzerain.

If the term Aztec, then, were an ethnological one, to designate the race of men who appeared on the scene at a given period in history, it is evident that when the term Aztec was applied to designate the empire, which consisted of so many conquered provinces, it ceased to be an ethnological name, and became a political one. It never appears to have been a geographical term.

The Aztec records and traditions all agree in stating that

they came from the north-west, and one authority even gives an itinerary of the march of the original Aztec adventurers, but the details of that march are limited to a distance which, in after times, was within the boundary of the empire. The general tradition of the American Indians, like that of the Aztecs, points to the far north-west as the locality whence they migrated to spread themselves over the vast continent.

The Aztec annals give the following chronology as the date of their arrival and the founding of the city of Mexico :—

They arrived in the beginning of the thirteenth century. They founded Mexico A.D. 1325.

The Toltecs occupied this region before the Aztecs. The only source of our knowledge of the Toltecs is Aztec history and tradition, which no doubt is trustworthy in some particulars. Humboldt, who is not easily imposed upon, gives more credit to it than do many other writers. The chronology is—

	A. D.
Toltecs arrive in Anahuac . . .	648
„ abandon the country . .	1051
The Chichemacs arrive . . .	1170
The Acolhuans arrive . . .	1200
The Mexicans or Aztecs reach Tula,	1196
They found Mexico . . . .	1325

When the Aztecs arrived they found the Cyclopean masonry, and they attributed the building of the palace at Palenque, which is described, and whose ruins are figured by Stephens, to the Toltecs.

The Toltecs were skilled in agriculture, and in many of the useful mechanical arts. They were the inventors of the complex arrangement and denotation of time, which the Aztecs confess to have borrowed from them. The ruins of Tula, their capital city, were in existence when the Spaniards conquered the country, and attested its extent and magnificence. All the great ruins are referred to as those of Toltec temples and palaces. In short, as Mr. Prescott remarks, the name Toltec has passed into a synonym for architect, and Humboldt calls them the Pelasgi of the New World.

The Toltecs were doubtless the founders of that civilization which distinguishes the territory in later times. After

four centuries of rule they disappear. It appears, from the statements of Clavigero, that no rain fell in the territory for several years; that famine and disease nearly depopulated the country; and that the survivors abandoned their homes, and migrated in large bodies to various parts of the continent. And Dr. Morton thinks that the Peruvian empire was founded by one colony of the Toltecas on their dispersion from Anahuac.

In Yucatan, in Nicaragua (as shewn in the valuable work of Mr. Squier), in Honduras, and at San Salvador, are ruins of temples and palaces, which, although not so large, are yet of the same character in the sculpture as those at Copan and Palenque. And these are deemed to be the work of the dispersed Toltecs.

When I first saw these Aztecs, if they be Aztecs, I was struck with their similarity of head to those figures copied from the sculptures in Del Rio's and Stephens' valuable works; and I requested our President's attention to the fact, on the occasion of the Aztecs being introduced to some distinguished men of science at his house last week.

It is now about twelve years since the publication of Mr. Stephens' travels in Central America, in which he states his belief that there still exists a secluded city, inhabited by Aztecs, and in which they maintain their polity, customs, and pagan rites, as when Montezuma lived.

At Santa Cruz del Quiché Mr. Stephens gains interesting information concerning the ruins of ancient cities from a padre who was living in solitude, unbroken by European visits, and in a monotonous routine of occupations in administering the offices of his church to the Indians, who partially conformed to Christianity, but in secrecy and silence practised the idolatrous rites of their forefathers. The priest told Mr. Stephens that he was obliged to wink at their practices.

Mr. Stephens says, and I am now quoting his words, "But the thing that roused us was the assertion by the padre, that, four days on the road to Mexico, on the other side of the great sierra, was a living city, large and populous, occupied by Indians, precisely in the same state as before the discovery of America. He had heard of it many years before, at the



village of Chajul, and was told by the villagers, that, from the topmost ridge of the sierra, this city was distinctly visible. He was then young, and, with much labour, climbed to the naked summit of the sierra, from which, at a height of 10,000 or 12,000 feet, he looked over an immense plain, extending to Yucatan and the Gulf of Mexico, and saw at a great distance a large city spread over a great space, and with turrets white and glittering in the sun. The traditional account of the Indians is, that no white man has ever reached this city; that the inhabitants speak the Maya language, are aware that a race of strangers has conquered the whole country around, and murder any white man who attempts to enter their territory. They have no coin or other circulating medium, no horses, cattle, mules, or other domestic animals, except fowls, and the cocks they keep under ground to prevent their crowing being heard.

“There was a wild novelty—something that touched the imagination—in every step of our journey in that country: the old padre, in the deep stillness of the dimly-lighted convent, with his long black coat—like a robe, and his flashing eye, called up an image of the bold and resolute priests who accompanied the armies of the conquerors; and as he drew a map on the table, and pointed out the sierra, to the top of which he had climbed, and the position of the mysterious city, the interest awakened in us was the most thrilling I ever experienced. One look at that city was worth ten years of an every-day life. If he is right, a place is left where Indians and an Indian city exist as Cortez and Alvarado found them; there are living men who can solve the mystery that hangs over the ruined cities of America; perhaps who can go to Copan and read the inscriptions on its monuments. No subject more exciting and attractive presents itself to my mind, and the deep impression of that night will never be effaced.

“Can it be true? Being now in my sober senses, I do verily believe there is much ground to suppose that what the padre told us is authentic.”—(P. 195, Vol. II.)

So far Mr. Stephens, who evidently believes in the existence of this city. And at the end of the work Mr. Stephens says, “In conclusion, I am at a loss to determine which would

be the greatest enterprise, an attempt to reach this mysterious city, to decipher the tablets of hieroglyphics, or to wade through the accumulated manuscripts of three centuries in the libraries of the convents."

There is no mistake about Mr. Stephens' firm belief in the existence of this city.

It is my duty here to say, that so far as my inquiry has extended—now for at least ten years—I have not yet found one English geographer who shares Mr. Stephens' belief. High geographical authorities remain unconvinced.

I come now to the statement of the visit of three gentlemen to this city, and to the obtaining of the two children from it, which I am about to introduce to you.

"The publication of Stephens' travels created an intense excitement throughout the United States. The arduous character of the American mind was stimulated by his recitals and the probability of discoveries which would form a new era in the history of the world. Certain it is that the reading of the particular passage relating to the existence of a large and populous city far away in an unexplored country, on the other side of the sierra, so inflamed the imaginations of two gentlemen—the one a Mr. Huertis, of Baltimore, and the other a Mr. Hammond, from Canada, both of whom were possessed of ample means—that they determined to undertake the perilous enterprise which Stephens had given up as hopeless. We have intelligence of their departure from New Orleans and arrival at Belize, in the autumn of 1848; we trace them with a party of Indians along the borders of the Gulf of Amatique, thence south-west to Copan, where they arrived on Christmas-day, and paused to rest prior to proceeding to Santa Cruz del Quiché, where, it will be remembered, Stephens first heard of this living city in the wilderness, and from which point the journey had, in fact, to be commenced. At Copan they were joined by Pedro Velasquez, of San Salvador, a Spaniard, and from his lips alone can any record of their subsequent movements be obtained, as neither Mr. Huertis nor Mr. Hammond ever returned to tell their own tale. Certain it is, that they saw and were seen by the old padre, who related the same story he had told Stephens, and that, when shewn the illus-



trations in the published travels of the latter, both Velasquez and the padre recognised the sketches of ruins and monuments immediately as objects with which they were familiar. Reassured by these and other proofs of the truthfulness of Stephens' statements, the party again commenced their onward march towards Totonicapan on the 10th of April, and their safe arrival at Gueguetenango can also be traced, where they procured mules, guides, and provisions, and strengthened their band. They then commenced the ascent of the sierra, and, on the 19th of May, at an altitude of 9500 feet, in latitude 15 degrees 48 minutes north, they reached the summit. On the 20th the morning was fair, the Pacific Ocean was plainly distinguishable, as also whole groups of ruins and pyramids, through the telescope, far away in what was supposed to be the state of Chiapas. At two o'clock P.M. on the same day all doubt of the history, as given by Stephens, vanished, for the entire party, guides and all, distinctly saw what was evidently a richly-monumented and inhabited city, of extremely large dimensions, of an Egyptian character, lying at some leagues' distance in the plain below, apparently not more than twenty-five leagues from Ocosingo, in the same latitude, and in the direct course of the river Legartos. Domes and minarets were apparent, in such a state of preservation as precluded the idea of the place being deserted; and thus stimulated by what they had seen, the intrepid travellers determined on exploring the plain below, but the descent of the sierra on that side was an entire impossibility. It was therefore agreed that they should return the way they had come to the bottom of the ravine, thence trace its north-east course to a large village they had seen on the banks of the Legato (subsequently discovered to be named Aguamasinta), where Messrs. Huertis and Hammond were to halt whilst Velasquez and the guides returned to Quezaltenango for surplus arms and ammunition, and to recruit a band of Indians to accompany them. Velasquez did return to Quezaltenango, and fulfilled his mission, leaving there most of the people who had accompanied him on his first trip; and the fact of his rejoining Huertis and Hammond at Aguamasinta in the beginning of the following July is also on record. Thenceforward, with the exception

of the verbatim account of Velasquez, the Spaniard, without notes or observations, and with no personal corroboration (for no other member of the adventurous band returned), all is a confused and irregular account of their proceedings, almost too marvellous for belief but for the living evidence of the two Aztec Lilliputians, whom Velasquez was found in possession of at San Salvador during the following February. His account briefly is, that they had penetrated to this city in the wilderness, which was of vast proportions, with heavy walls, battlements, and a moat throughout its circumference, full of temples, gigantic statues, and all the paraphernalia of paganism; where the people still retained the worship of the sun as a deity; where the habits, customs, sovereignty, and primitive simplicity of the Peruvians in the days of Pizarro, combined with Assyrian magnificence and civilization, still existed intact, and without alloy from the outer world; and where the hereditary priesthood of Kaana were kept isolated from the other inhabitants, reserved for the purposes of paganism, its rites, and its ceremonies, with the same religious reverence as in the days of the Egyptian rule; where the people were bound to remain, neither seeking nor permitting any intercourse with the white race, to which, on the one side, the lofty and impracticable sierra presented an apparently insurmountable obstacle, whilst, on the other, desert plains and leviathan forests completely shut out the civilized world; a city where straggling white men had previously penetrated, but whence no white man had ever returned, the choice of death or remaining being the only alternative. But as the truth of his narrative concerning this pagan city of Iximaya, with its exact locality and existence, will be determined by the United-States' survey, now in course of formation, the question will be soon set at rest. Mean time it is certain that neither Hammond nor Huertis returned: the former, Velasquez says, died from a spear wound received in the first skirmish with the native band set to guard against intrusion on their domains; and the latter, it is evident, was sacrificed after taking upon himself moral obligations to remain, and then attempting to escape.

Velasquez was more fortunate and more politic, for, after lulling his captors into a state of security, he not only escaped

himself, but brought with him two of the children of the Kaana priesthood.

His description of this extraordinary race of beings is simply this:—That, forbidden by sacred laws from marrying any but those of their own caste, they had here, in the course of centuries, dwindled down to a few individuals, who, though diminutive in stature, are held in great veneration by the Iximayan community as living types of an antique race of priesthood nearly extinct, who had accompanied the first migration of the people from the Assyrian plains.—*Liverpool Mercury*, 21 June, 1853.

The statement of Pedro Velasquez is unverified, and therefore must share the fate of all unverified marvellous statements.

We are in the position, then, of having two remarkable children, with peculiar physiognomies, and those, as I have said, are similar to the bas-reliefs at Palenque, which have been figured by both Stephens and Del Rio in their respective works.

Now the Aztec authorities refer those architectural ruins to the Toltecs. If they were erected by the Toltecs they were built long before the Aztec adventurers arrived in Anahuac: The sculptured bas-reliefs, therefore, cannot represent Aztecs, most probably they represent Toltecs. The children, in head and face, are like these bas-reliefs, and therefore are like, so far as physiognomy is concerned, the Toltecs;—I say, only so far as physiognomy is concerned, because the bas-reliefs represent a fine-grown race of men.

Professor Owen will now, at the request of our President, describe the physical characters of the so-called Aztec children.

Agreeably with the suggestions of the President, I have availed myself of the opportunity kindly afforded me by Mr. J. M. Morris, the guardian of the two so-called Aztec children, to make a more detailed examination of them than could be carried out amidst the number of interested spectators who enjoyed the opportunity of seeing those children at the President's residence on their first arrival in London, June 1853.

I went to Mr. Morris's lodgings early on the morning of the

30th June, before the children were out of bed, and found them in the same good health and spirits as they exhibited the previous day. They were romping with each other, playing at hide and seek under the bedclothes, &c., like any other children. As an instance of their memory, the elder one, the boy Maximo, indicated his recognition of me by opening his mouth, and pulling down his under lip to shew his teeth, which I had cursorily looked at the previous day. Thus invited, I began the examination with the dentition of the boy.

He has twelve teeth in place in the upper jaw, and eight teeth in place in the lower jaw. The upper teeth consist of the permanent incisors, 4; the deciduous canine, 2; the bicuspid, 4, and the first true molar, 2: the lower teeth consist of the permanent incisors, 4; the canine, 2, and the first true molar, 2. The latter tooth is separated from the canine by an interval, from which the two deciduous molars have been shed, and their successors, the bicuspid, have not yet come into place. The dentition of the upper jaw is, therefore, more advanced in respect to the bicuspid, and the same circumstance is illustrated by the specimen figured by Hunter in his work "On the Teeth" (pl. xi. fig. 2), which he describes as "the teeth from one side of both jaws of a youth about eleven or twelve years old." In this specimen, as in Maximo, the deciduous incisors and canines have been shed, and the permanent ones are in place, although the fang of the canine is incomplete. The first upper bicuspid has succeeded the first deciduous molar, but both first and second deciduous molars are retained in the lower jaw, and the second deciduous molar is retained in the upper jaw.

The dentition of Maximo shews, therefore, in some respects, a more advanced state than that ascribed by Hunter to the boy of about eleven or twelve years; but the average age at which the bicuspid is now acquired in English children is between ten and eleven years. The dentition of Maximo, by the acquisition of the second bicuspid in the upper jaw, and the shedding of both deciduous molars in the lower jaw, is more advanced than in the case cited from Hunter; and,



supposing that case to represent the average dentition of a child of eleven years of age, the dentition of Maximo may be set down as that of the child of twelve years.

Dr. Warren, of Boston, has fortunately recorded the result of his examination of the dentition of the two children in question, in the twentieth volume of the "*American Journal of Medical Science*," published in 1851, the examination having apparently been made at the City of Boston, United States, in the same year.

At that time the boy Maximo had nine teeth in the upper jaw and eight in the lower jaw. The upper teeth are stated to consist of the deciduous lateral incisor of each side, 2; the (most probably) deciduous canine, 2; one of the left and the two right deciduous molars, and the first permanent molar. The lower teeth consisted of the permanent mid-incisors, 2; the lateral incisors, 2; one deciduous molar on each side, 2; and the first true molar, 2. It is added, that "on the left side of the lower jaw, in the place of the cuspidatus, is a large worn tooth, similar to a molar of the first set: there is no corresponding tooth on the other side, the cuspidatus being wanting, and the first milk-molar coming next to the lateral incisor."—(Tom. cit. p. 7.)

Whence Dr. Warren draws the inference that the boy Maximo was, at that period (1851), "between six and seven years of age;" and this accords with my experience of the average age of children exhibiting the state of dentition above described, viz. the incisors in course of change; the permanent mid-ones below having risen into place; the deciduous canines and molars retained, and the first permanent molar (*m* 1) in place.

Since 1851, therefore, the following changes of dentition have occurred:—All the permanent incisors have come into place, and the deciduous ones have been shed; the canines are in place in both jaws; the upper ones are of the deciduous set, and are small and discoloured, but the lower ones appear to be of the permanent series. All the deciduous molars have been shed, and those above have been succeeded by the bicuspid, but those teeth have not come into place in the lower jaw: the first true molars remain, and the summit



of the second true molars are beginning to pierce the gum. On Dr. Warren's conclusion that the boy Maximo was seven years of age in July 1851, he would now be nine; and, giving a full allowance to the range of variety in the change of the dentition, and the acquisition of the permanent teeth, we cannot suppose the boy to have been much more than eight years old in 1851, or now (1853) to be more than between ten and eleven years of age.

With regard to the dentition of the girl Bartola. She has now (July 1853) twelve teeth in place in the upper jaw, and eleven teeth in the lower jaw.

The twelve teeth above are, on each side, the permanent mid-incisor, 2, and the deciduous lateral incisor, 2; the deciduous canine, 2; the two deciduous molars, 4, and the first permanent true molar, 2.

The eleven teeth below are—the left permanent mid-incisor, 1; the right deciduous mid-incisor, 1; and the left deciduous lateral incisors, 2; the deciduous canine, 2; the two deciduous molars, 4; and the first permanent true molar, 2. This latter tooth has only recently cut the gum, and is not yet in its full place in either jaw.

John Hunter has figured a nearly analogous state of dentition in his work "On the Teeth" (pl. ix. fig. 1.), as belonging to a child about eight or nine years of age: the deciduous incisors and canines are "shed, and their successors rising in new sockets," and "the first adult grinder was ready to cut the gum."

At the present day the average period of the acquisition and coming into place of the first adult grinder, or permanent molar, is the seventh year.

In 1851, Dr. Warren, of Boston, United States, describes the dentition of Bartola as—"Teeth, ten in each jaw, deciduous normal, all perfectly sound and white" (Loc. cit. p. 7); whence he deduces her age as being "from four to six years." Since that time, therefore, the girl Bartola has acquired seven teeth, three in exchange for the same number shed, viz. the two upper and one lower mid-incisors, and four in addition to the series of twenty, viz. the first true molar on each side of both jaws; and, as above stated, she has shed three of

the deciduous series, viz. the two upper mid-incisors, and the left lower one. This amount of change tallies with the ordinary rate at which the dental system is developed in normal children, and adds to the probability of the age being rightly indicated by the actual state of the dentition. The fully-acquired milk-series of twenty teeth may be found, as Dr. Warren has stated, in children of from four to six years. If we take the former as being the age of Bartola in July 1851, she is now six years; if the latter, she is now eight years: her present dentition accords best with that of a normal European child of seven years of age.

The complexion of both children is alike, viz. olive, somewhat deeper in the face and exposed parts of the extremities than on the rest of the body; whence I infer that they have been habitually clothed from birth, and have not gone naked during the earlier years of their existence. I could not detect, under any light, or in any part of the outer surface of the body, a trace of the reddish or yellow rete-mucosum characteristic of the present Indian races.

In like manner the hair of the children, although black, is not straight, coarse, or lanky, as in most of the existing Indian aborigines of America, but is smooth, and, in the girl, of a silky lustre, and is disposed in graceful curls like the hair in most southern Europeans, and their descendants, now colonizing Central and South America. So general is the lanky, straight, or slightly wavy condition of the hair a character of the known American Indians, from the Esquimaux of the northern to the Fuegians at the southern extremity of the New World, that, on first viewing the children in question as affirmed to be of the Aztec race, I supposed the hair to have been artificially curled; but having had the opportunity of examining them before they had quitted their bed in the morning, I satisfied myself that the close wavy curls were the natural disposition of their hair, the longest locks being about eight inches.

The hair rises in front at about an inch distant from the root of the nose in the boy, and rather closer to it in the girl, and densely covers their contracted cranium. A short downy kind of hair grows from the skin of this scanty forehead, within a short

distance of the orbit, say three lines from the mid-ends of the eyebrows, and almost close to the outer ends; and the same kind of hair is continued from the skin in front of the ear in both, but more conspicuously in the girl. The eyebrows are black, narrow, and neatly defined: the eyelashes are long. Some black hairs grow from the inside of the nostrils. There are no hairs on the axilla or on the pubis of the children. In the boy the testes have descended into the scrotum, and are small; the penis is well formed; the prepuce entire, with the frænum in the usual place. A slight erection ensued on making this examination, and other gestures in playing with the girl seemed to indicate a precocious dawning of the venereal appetite. The length of the penis, when distended, was two inches.

The external organs of generation in the girl were equally normal, and accorded with the condition of the same parts in a child of seven years: the clitoris was somewhat larger than in most children of that age: the mammæ were undeveloped, and the bosom was flat: the umbilicus was sunken.

The eyes are large, prominent, dark, and lustrous, in both children, like those in the south Italian or Spanish physiognomy. The ears are of moderate size, and well shaped, with a small but distinct lobe, and so placed that the meatus is in a line with the opening of the eyelids. The nose, in both children, is also well formed, is large and prominent: in profile it is most arched in the boy: the alæ are rather short, exposing more of the aperture of the nostril than is common in European children.

In both children the forehead is slightly prominent along the middle line, but sinks above the superorbital ridges, which accordingly are prominent; but there are no superciliary prominences indicative of frontal sinuses. A slightly-raised and narrow tract of the cranial walls may be traced extending backward, with a curve convex towards the sagittal suture, from the external angle of the frontal bone above the squamous suture to a rather more elevated occipital ridge. The super-occipital is feebly developed, and inclines from the insertion of the nuchal muscles, from below and behind, upwards and forwards.

The chief and most striking characteristic of both children is due to the abnormal arrest of development of the brain and brain-case, which gives them the character of hemi-cephalous monsters. I took the following admeasurements of the cranium:—

	BOY MAXIMO. <i>In. Lines.</i>		GIRL BARTOLA. <i>In. Lines.</i>		ENG. BOY AGED 11. <i>In. Lines.</i>	
Circumference . . . .	13	3	13	4	18	0
Antero-posterior diameter . .	4	3	4	6		
Transverse diameter (taken immediately above the ears) . .	3	9	3	10		
From one meatus auditorius to the other around the forehead . .	7	6	7	2		
From one meatus auditorius to the other over the vertex . .	7	9	8	2		
From one meatus auditorius to the other round the occiput . .	5	7	5	5		
From the root of the nose to the occipital spine, following the curve of the cranium . . . .	7	10	8	2		
From the auditory meatus to the mid-incisor . . . .	3	6				
Length of nose . . . .	2	9				

In both children the upper jaw seems to be unusually prominent, especially in the boy; but this arises less from an actual prognathic structure—the incisors and upper alveoli being nearly vertical—than from the feeble development of the lower jaw, and the receding chin. The jaw usually drops in the boy, leaving the mouth open and exposing the teeth: the girl having a somewhat larger proportional cranium and a firmer character of mouth, presents a less idiotic physiognomy. But the countenances of both children brighten up with an aspect of intelligence when any thing strange and pleasing attracts their attention.

The trunk and limbs are well proportioned in both, and it is only in the boy that any deviations from the normal structure present themselves. The instances of this are as follows:—The forearm cannot be brought into a straight line with the humerus, but is permanently maintained in a slightly-bent position, and generally in a state of semipronation; but the movements of pronation and supination are free. The little



finger extends only a little beyond the proximal phalanx of the ring-finger; and, if the second as well as the ungual phalanx be present, they are ankylosed, and the natural rugæ indicative of the joint in the other fingers are wanting.

The following are admeasurements:—

	BOY		GIRL	
	MAXIMO.		BARTOLA.	
	In.	Lines.	In.	Lines.
Height, from the sole to the vertex . . . . .	34	6	30	9
Length of spinal column . . . . .	16	0	15	8
„ humerus . . . . .	7	0	6	6
„ ulna . . . . .	5	9	5	3
„ hand . . . . .	4	0	4	2
Breadth of ditto . . . . .	2	3	2	0
Length of thumb . . . . .	1	0	1	3
„ mid-finger . . . . .	2	0	2	0
„ little finger . . . . .	0	11	1	3
Length of femur . . . . .	9	3	8	6
„ tibia . . . . .	8	7	7	0
„ foot . . . . .	5	0	4	7
Circumference of chest under axillæ . . . . .	20	5	19	7
„ „ pelvis . . . . .	17	6	17	0
Weight . . . . .	23 lb.		21½ lb.	

The great toe is well developed and the foot well formed, in both.

They stand and walk erect; and in all the essential characters derived from the dentition and the structure of the upper and lower limbs they are strictly human, and make no nearer approach to the brute than other well-formed individuals of the genus *homo*.

Some peculiarities of posture and gait might be expected, and appear to depend upon the abnormal preponderance of the facial over the cranial part of the head: thus the head, more particularly in the boy, is thrown more forwards than usual when he advances, and this is associated, as was remarked by Dr. Warren, with a slight stoop of the shoulders and a bending of the knees. The usual mode of sitting, in both children, is also peculiar, and akin to the cross-legged attitude of the Turks. They shew quick perceptive powers, some curiosity, much imitativeness, and a certain degree of memory: they seem readily to acquire short words, as the signs of those things or persons that please or excite them;



but they are unable to combine them to form the most simple propositions; and their usually dumb interchange of playful familiarities with each other, and their lack of language, accord with the restricted development of the cerebral organ.

The chief peculiarity of these children, and that which constitutes their attractiveness, from its strangeness, is the combination of an abnormal restriction of general growth, and a more special arrest of development of the brain and cranium, with their deep olive complexion, and fine features in regard to the eyes and nose.

If I had had to form an opinion of their race and nature, independently of any previous information as to their parentage and place of birth, I should, from the physical characters above described, have concluded them to be of southern European parents, or the children of descendants of south Europeans settled in tropical or warm latitudes of Asia or America. I believe them to be instances of exceptional arrest of development, not representatives of any peculiar human race.

As to documentary or extraneous information of the birth-place and parentage of these malformed children, we have to choose from conflicting evidence, afforded by Mexicans of Spanish origin.

According to a printed Document, extracted from the "Liverpool Mercury," of June 21st, 1853, Pedro Velasquez, of San Salvador, Mexico, states that he brought them from the Kaanat of Iximaya, an ancient city in Central America, inhabited by a remnant of the aboriginal Aztec population, and that they were the children of the Kaana priesthood, which he describes as being forbidden by sacred laws from marrying any but those of their own caste, which had dwindled down to a few individuals, who, though diminutive in stature, are held in great veneration by the Iximayan community. M. Velasquez affirms that he was accompanied in his excursion to this isolated city by two American gentlemen, Messrs. Hammond and Huertis; that both these gentlemen were slain by the Kaana Aztecs, whilst he himself, more fortunate, succeeded in lulling his captors into a state of security, and not

only escaped himself, but brought with him these two children of the much-venerated sacerdotal race.

On the other hand, according to the "Philadelphia Bulletin" of July 13th, 1852, two Mexicans of Spanish origin, natives of San Salvador, Mexico, deposed as follows—the one, named Innocente Burgos, that he himself was the father of the two children in question, of whom one, the boy, was then eight years, the other, the girl, six years of age. Ramonda Sylva, also a native of San Salvador, testified to the truth of Burgos's deposition.

In conclusion, I may remark that the cranium does not shew any sign of artificial compression in either child; and that the figures from ancient Mexican hieroglyphics, copied by Humboldt, Martin, and other ethnologists, bear but a superficial resemblance to the children in question, whose abnormally-arrested cranial development accords with the artificially-flattened or compressed heads of those ancient American people.

The skull which offers the nearest approach to the peculiar form exhibited by the so-called Aztecs, is that of the idiot preserved in the museum of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and of which I subjoin an engraving, with an outline of the face.

RICHARD OWEN, F.R.S.,

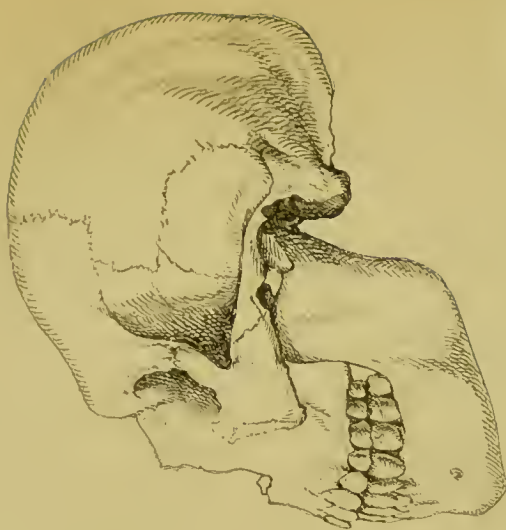
Hunterian Professor in the

Royal College of Surgeons.

July 5th, 1853.



*Marino.  
so-called Aztec boy.*



*Skull of an Idiot.  
preserved in St. Bartholomew's Hospital.*

